

The Jewish Daily Forward

Sivan + Tammuz + Av 5768 ■ July + August 2008

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

Siddur Sha'ar Zahav

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 6:30 – 8:30;

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 6:30 – 8:00

Come to one of these two open sessions introducing the new version of our siddur. Editors will offer a brief discussion of the siddur's aims and organization, and then you will have an opportunity to offer corrections. To prepare, you may want to check out a siddur from Regina or look at the copy available 24-7 in the oneg room.

Sha'ar Zahav Anniversary Shabbat

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 7:30 PM; SATURDAY,

JULY 12, 10:15 PM All are invited to celebrate our 31st birthday on this special Shabbat weekend. Our Friday night drash will be given by CSZ co-founder Daniel Chesir.

Tisha B'Av Service

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 7:30 PM

Cantor Bernstein will lead us in this solemn evening of prayer, in remembrance of the many ills that have befallen our people.

Student Meet and Greet

MONDAY, JULY 14, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Did you know there is a national organization for LGBT Jewish students? Join the National Union of Jewish LGBTQI Students (NUJLS) for a meet and greet.

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Siddur Sha'ar Zahav is Here!

BY MICHAEL TYLER

June 20, 2008 was a day of auspicious beginnings at Sha'ar Zahav: Besides being the first day of summer, the day marked the installation of new Va'ad officers and the debut of our new siddur.

The founders of Sha'ar Zahav realized early on that our community required its own prayer book, a siddur that would be LGBTQ-normative, that would be socially progressive, and that would recognize the wide diversity of our members' Jewish experiences. Ten years ago, a committee met to create the "beta test" version that we have loved and used in the blue binder form. Last summer, at the urging of President Ora Prochovnick and with the guidance of Martin Tannenbaum, we embarked on updating the beta version into a form that could be bound and used with pride by our members and those outside our shul as well.

On June 20, galley proofs of the new siddur were distributed and used by the congregation. These proofs will be used for the next three months, until the bound siddur is introduced at Simchat Torah. All members of Sha'ar Zahav are encouraged to come to services (as always!) to experience the new siddur, to help us proofread it, and to offer feedback.

A Truly Sha'ar Zahav Siddur

When you open the new siddur, you will find that the team of editors has worked to expand its scope enormously. In addition to the familiar Shabbat services and an expanded daily evening service, several new sections have been added. The siddur begins with a section of blessings, written largely by our members—this is probably the only siddur in the country to include blessings on sexual intimacy, a kavanah on menopause, and a prayer for taking an HIV test.

The siddur comes to a close with a section of prayers of remembrance, including both traditional yizkor prayers and ones written by our members to express situations especially relevant to our community, such as grief at the death of family members with whom we are still angry and relationships still unresolved. The siddur also includes a festivals section put together largely from the many hand-outs we have used over the years, and a newly refurbished song section.

These many different sections will open up possibilities for our lay leadership. As a participatory congregation, Sha'ar Zahav has always

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סידור שער זהב

SIDDUR SHA'AR ZAHAV



CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV

5768 - 2008
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

My Top Seven Words in the Siddur



IT'S ALL Dr. Jelliffe's fault. My English Lit professor in college one day put in front of us Archibald MacLeish's, "Ars Poetica":

*A poem should be palpable and mute
As a globed fruit . . .*

We started reading, ready to analyze like good little students, then got to the words "globed fruit." Rather than asking us to *understand* these words, our teacher challenged us to *experience* it. What kind of fruit? An orange? What does it look like? What color? Light or deep orange? Greenish? What does it feel like in your hand? Is the skin nubby? What does it taste like? Sweet, juicy, a little sour?

Our senses guided us through the poem, meaning coming not through intellectualization, but through eyes, ears, nose, mouth, skin. It was epiphanic, life-changing—making every poem, every word, since then resonate and reverberate, ripple and plunge. Particularly in the siddur. The words don't rest gently on the page; they flutter and struggle to be released from their bindings, to sink into imagination, explode into metaphor.

It makes for a singular experience in prayer. I don't have a siddur, I have my siddur of the moment, my experience of the words as combined with my perceptions, emotions, experiences of the day. I come to "M'chalkeil Chayim", and the words "lisheinei afar" (sleeping in the dust), and I choke because as I walked to shul that morning there was a old man sleeping on the sidewalk. I come to "Shochein ad marom" (Dweller on high), and I am suddenly struck by the similarity of the word "shochein" to "shachein" (neighbor) and "sh'chunah" (neighborhood); God is living next door and I'm going over to borrow a cup of sugar.

Over the years, this has resulted in some sweet moments, culminating now in this unofficial, constantly subject to change, informal list of my seven favorite words in the siddur:

daveik: to adhere, stick, cling, cleave. Found in the Ahava Raba paragraph on Saturday morning, right before the

Sh'ma: "*v'daveik libeinu b'mitzvotecha*." *Daveik* our hearts with your commandments. Fasten my heart to your laws. Like honey. Band-aids. Elmer's glue. Peanut butter. Chewing gum.

v'shinantam: Found in the V'havta: "*v'shinantam livnotecha ul'vanecha*." And you shall "*shinantam*" [these words] to your sons and your daughters. *Shinantam* is usually translated as "repeat," but is related to the word "*shein*", meaning "tooth," so that it can literally mean "you shall teeth" them. Chew them. Bite them. Have them in your mouth. Often.

sechvi: rooster. Found Saturday morning in Nisim b'chol Yom: "*asher natan lasechvi vinah l'havchin bein yom u-vein layla*." Who gave to the rooster the wisdom to distinguish between day and night. Wise rooster, who wakes us up in the morning.

ba-a-galah: Found in the Kaddish (any Kaddish – Mourner's Kaddish, Chatzi Kaddish, Full Kaddish, etc.) at the end of the first paragraph as part of the phrase "*ba-agalah uvizman kariv*." This phrase is understood as "speedily and soon." However, an "*agalah*" is a cart or wagon, so the prayer is literally asking for God to arrive on wheels. Who knew from jet planes 2,000 years ago?

l'olam: usually translated as "forever," it means literally "to the universe." Without bounds. Infinite. Vast stretches of starry skies, planets, galaxies. Deep seas, hidden crevices, deserts, grains of sand. All that is known and unknown, past, present, future, inside, and out.

rakdu: danced. Found in Hallel in the phrase, "*heharim rakdu ch'eilim*." The mountains danced like goats. Skipped, jumped. Hills pulling up their skirty folds in a jig.

shalom – from the same origin as the Hebrew word *shalem*, meaning whole, complete, reconciled, settled. Make things whole, and we start creating peace. Also related to *l'shaleim*, meaning "to pay," showing "peace" as a functional, practical matter. "Peace" our debts, "peace" what words have broken, "peace" the world.

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, and the San Francisco Organizing Project



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● Welcoming Community



I'M NO STRANGER to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. But never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that I would have the honor and privilege of serving as president. Like many of you, I have spent much of my life as an *outsider*—as

a gay boy growing up on a dairy farm in rural New York, as a sixteen-year-old freshman at Union College, as a non-Jew living in Israel, as a partnered man who moved to San Francisco during the hey-days of free love, and now as a cultural anthropologist managing a law firm.

No doubt, like most of you, I sometimes revel in the politics of not fitting in and, at the same time, long for a sense of belonging to a warm and caring community.

I found that community in Judaism and in our Sha'ar Zahav congregation—which allows, no, actually requires me to remain a rugged individual and also a member of a community trying to forge a sacred and welcoming place for the strange and the stranger.

I was raised Dutch Reformed—which, growing up, meant that I was vaguely Christian and told to focus more on what came after life than on the world in which we lived. It didn't speak to me, although I attended regularly with my family—after all, there was an "Ingersoll pew" and the church was a big part of our community. When I left Fultonville for college, I also left organized religion.

In the mid '70s, I met David Stein, who offered me love and an opportunity to live in Israel where he taught at the Tel Aviv University. Like most immigrants, I attended *ulpan* for six months to learn Hebrew and concurrently worked as an editor at the university—in English, not in Hebrew. Annually, I submitted a request for permanent residency, but the only non-Jewish Americans the authorities ever saw were connected with Christian churches. They didn't understand why I wanted to live in Israel and even encouraged me to just claim I was Jewish. However, I wasn't Jewish, I didn't want to lie and ... I somewhat enjoyed being the outsider. Although the law actually forbade extension of my visa beyond 18

months, they somehow approved my four-year stay in one-year increments. Another chance to be a stranger!

We left Israel in 1979 because, at the time, it was very limiting to be an out gay couple—particularly given the focus on getting married and having children. I guess we both craved a community of people more "like us," which at the time meant gay men. We moved to San Francisco and loved the sense of pride and freedom. But we missed the Jewish community we had left in Israel.

Not long after our arrival, we began attending Sha'ar Zahav, then at the old JCC. It took us until 1982 to join the shul—actually, it took three years for someone to ask us in. At Sha'ar Zahav, everyone seemed to assume I was Jewish. After all, I spoke more Hebrew than most, loved baking challah, and knew many of the tunes. And even better, not being able to sing on key wasn't an obstacle.

I launched into the more secular areas of Sha'ar Zahav. Not long after showing up to help with the *Jewish Gaily Forward* mailing, I was asked to take over as editor. I remained in that role for five years. As Prudence Carter and Jo Ellen Kaiser will no doubt attest, one couldn't ask for a better way of getting to really know the many members of our community.

"Community" is what most attracted me to Judaism. I am particularly drawn to Judaism's dictate that each individual is responsible for the community—both broadly and narrowly defined—and for the stranger. So, in 1997, I formally converted, appearing before a *Beit Din* and immersing myself in the mikvah on Sacramento Street with a recitation of the Sh'ma. At that point, however, my welcoming into the covenant was really more of a reaffirmation than a conversion.

Since then, my spiritual base has grown, along with my sense of community—and my sense of responsibility for it. I feel a deep and personal responsibility for myself, my new partner and soon-to-be spouse (Martin), my family of birth, my adopted family, my friends, my Sha'ar Zahav community, my San Francisco and Bay Area community, my people ... and beyond.

There are many things I love about our community. We have an extraordinary rabbi who both teaches and embodies Jewish values, a cantor who brings joy to my heart (continued on page 9)

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What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

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Enjoy refreshments, meet NUJLS members, and learn about how we empower students to create places where they are celebrated and affirmed as LGBTQQI Jews. All are welcome - you don't have to be a college student to attend!

Screening of award-winning Israeli TV series *A Touch Away*

THREE SUNDAYS IN AUGUST: 17, 24, 31, 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM This terrific series was produced for prime time television in Israel and broke ratings records with its broadcast in 2007. *A Touch Away* takes a slice of contemporary Tel Aviv life and spins out a marvelous multi-family, Romeo and Juliet drama. Cleverly scripted and well cast, the

story never fails to entertain, but manages also to be a realistic reflection of the ongoing social challenges facing today's increasingly diverse Israeli society. 8/17: Episodes 1-3; 8/24 Episodes 4-6; 8/31 Episodes 7-8. Don't worry. If you miss one, we will review

the story before each show.

This event is co-sponsored by The Jewish Agency For Israel and the Israel Center of the Jewish Community Federation. \$5 donation requested. Please RSVP to the CSZ office at 415-861-6932.

High Holy Day services will again be held at the Herbst Theater. Put these dates on your calendar!

Monday, September 29	Erev Rosh Hashanah
Tuesday, September 30	Rosh Hashanah first day
Wednesday, October 1	Rosh Hashanah second day at CSZ
Wednesday, October 8	Kol Nidre
Thursday, October 9	Yom Kippur

LGBTQ Jewish Book Group

THURSDAYS, 7:30

Please join our book group. We discuss works of fiction—usually with a Gay/Lesbian/Jewish theme, or by a Gay/Lesbian/Jewish author. Recent titles include *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, *Kalookie Nights*, and *Palestinian Lover*.

The group chooses its books and sites for the meetings. Typically, we alternate between San Francisco and East Bay restaurants and enjoy a pleasant dinner before discussing the book. If you enjoy reading fiction, we'd love to have you join us. For more information, contact RRiffer@aol.com.

New Solutions for Book Groups: "Book Club in a Box" from Jewish Community Library

Congregants who are book group members often encounter a challenging dilemma: In looking for books for their

group to read, they may diligently scour reputable review sources, solicit bookshop recommendations and personal testimonials, and still find that the titles they carefully select end up being poorly written. Borrowing copies from libraries or buying them is also sometimes a hassle, especially with new or expensive hardcovers. These booklovers will be delighted to learn about the Jewish Community Library's free "Book Club in a Box" program. When they reserve, for example, Bernard Cooper's masterful memoir *The Bill from My Father*, the box includes twelve copies of the book, discussion questions, reviews, interviews, and other supplementary material, which helps to focus their discussion. There is a downloadable Facilitator Training Handbook as well as a one-time offer of a professional facilitator's services. They might next read Saul Bellow's classic *Seize the Day* or Philip Roth's "what if" novel *The Plot Against America*.

"It's so much fun to match readers with a book, and then talk to them afterward to see how they liked it. I can't believe every book group in the city isn't participating," says Jim Van Buskirk, a Sha'ar Zahav member who is obviously enjoying his new part-time job as the Book Group Coordinator. "Some groups borrow one title from us and move on, other groups over the course of the years have read the majority of the over 70 titles. New titles are continually being added, with careful attention paid to the literary quality and discussability. Of course we have wildly popular titles like Michael Chabon's *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, but we really strive to find the 'sleepers' like Dalia Sofer's beautiful *The Septembers of Shiraz* and Anya Ulinich's darkly humorous *Petropolis*."

For more information, please visit http://bjesf.org/library_bookgroups.htm and/or contact Jim Van Buskirk, Book Group Coordinator: 415-567-3327 x712 or jvanbuskirk@bjesf.org

LGBTQQI

By Howard Steiermann

I WAS FASCINATED with weddings even as a little boy. There was a large church in the center of downtown, right at the crossroads of Niles Center Road and Lincoln Boulevard. I recall sitting on a bench across the street, anticipating the bride and groom's joyous exit out the massive double doors as they were greeted and surrounded by their cheering family and friends.

What is it that captivates me about weddings? Is it my optimistic wishing the couple well as they embark on life's journeys as a married couple? Perhaps it's the ceremony and ritual: both the mythical 'something borrowed, something blue,' as well as the religious—be it the bedecken ceremony (so one won't be tricked into marrying the wrong person under a veil as Jacob was), or the chassen's tisch, where guests interrupt Torah teaching as they drink schnapps in cel-



Above: Rachel Biale (PJA), Sha'ar Zahav rabbinic intern Reuben Zellman, Sha'ar Zahav member Lisa Finkelstein and Sha'ar Zahav Educator Rebecca Weiner show off a special LGBT ketubah. **Left:** All couples were welcomed under the CSZ chuppah.



ebration (and perhaps to calm jittery nerves). More than likely, it's simply that I've always known, felt and believed in LOVE; with "I do's" having become the epitome of a couple's public declaration of love.

Then I got to thinking...how do we discuss marriage with people who continue to think that same-sex marriage is wrong? I'd suggest by clearly and calmly explaining facts and context they may not be aware of.

For example, there's the bible verse: Leviticus 18:22, "You shall not lie with a man as with a woman, it is an abomination." We could explain that some modern biblical scholars have come to understand this law did not prohibit all homosexual sex, but solely ritual anal sex at a pagan temple. Unless we're considering the U.S. Capital as a pagan temple, probably not much of that going on in 2008! We could elaborate that some scholars understand the law to prohibit men from treating men as they treated woman—like property. [Hmm, an aside here, but I'd suggest that we treat everyone, no matter their born, given or chosen gender, with the love, respect and consideration that all of us deserve, as children of G-d—

as each of us is created *bezel elohim*, in the image of G-d.]

And in response to religious/biblical arguments against statements that marriage is solely for the purpose of procreation; some scholars write that G-d created the world because G-d knew that it is not good to be alone; and similarly created Eve for Adam because "it is not good to be alone"; not because Eve was necessary for procreation. Traditional sources recognize that companionship, love and intimacy are the primary purposes of marriage; marriage is not solely, or even primarily for the purpose of procreation. And then there are common sense rebuttals against "marriage being for the purpose of procreation" such as couples who marry past their childbearing years, or who have no intention to have children or on the other hand—the numerous same-sex couples who do plan on becoming (or already are) parents.

In addition to logic, reason and explanation, I believe the most important way to help move people past their unfounded fears is by all of us living our authentic lives; lives based on the same (not similar, but the same) laws as the rest of the land.

So I offer my 'mazel tov' to those couples who plan on marrying. And for those of us who aren't interested in or at a point in a relationship to get married, we can advocate to others why this is important, and right, for society. I look forward to wishing many, many couples 'best wishes,' be it as I officiate under their chuppah; or see a couple amidst the thousand-year-old sequoias of Muir Woods, or in front of a downtown hotel or church.

May all our lives be for a blessing.

Shalom Families!

I AM WRITING this as I return from two trips: one to lovely downtown Newark to make a presentation about our Hebrew school to the Legacy Heritage Foundation and the other, my trip to our community retreat. In both instances I was impressed with how amazing our community is.

The response from the Jewish educational world to our innovative programming has been overwhelming. We have something very good going on here and we should be very proud. One of the elements that seemed to garner real respect from my colleagues was the degree of lay participation in all aspects of the school. Our opening circle, our Galei Limudim and our B'nei Mitzvah program were all applauded as innovative and revolutionary in the Jewish education world.

Our community retreat was also an example of how special a community we have here. Whether we are praying, noshing or just shmoozing there is a real ruach (spirit) and keshet (connection) that resonates. On a personal level, being able to

be a part of this community has enriched my life and my Jewish practice.

I would like for that sense of community to continue this summer, even though Beit Sefer is not in session. Here are a few suggestions for keeping the community spirit going:

Come to shul!!!

Have a Beit Sefer family over for Shabbat
Attend the East Bay Havurah

Continue to learn and participate in Jewish experiences this summer.

There is going to be a wealth of opportunities to share in the community experience next year. First off, you are going to be asked to participate in the Circle of Commitment, our volunteer program of sacred avodah (spiritual work). I assure you, it will be easy to find opportunities to get involved here at Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer. You can participate in the Galei Limudim, become a B'nei Mitzvah Mentor or help to plan one of our community-wide retreats, among many other possibilities.

We also will be starting a new

program next year, based on the success of the East Bay Havurah. For those of you not familiar with the Havurah program, one Friday night a month a community member sponsors Shabbat in their home and there are study groups for both adults and children. Please stay tuned for more on this program.

Sha'ar Zahav will also add an exciting new program to our family Shabbat line up. Along with Friday Night Live services for kids 0-6, we will begin a "Shabbat Ruach" program. This program brings the fabulous Deborah Newbrun (former director of Camp Tawonga) and Issac Zones to do a rockin' Shabbat send up. The program promises to be a real Shabbat experience for the whole family and will happen the third Friday of every month (except January).

So nu.... now go and have a relaxing summer, so I can see you next year, refreshed, recharged and ready to participate in all the Jewish reverie that will be waiting for you.

B'Shalom,
Rebecca



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TWILIGHT

Our sages taught: As to twilight, it is doubtful whether it is part day and part night, or whether all of it is day or all of it is night. How long does the twilight last? Rabbi Yosi said: Twilight is like the twinkling of an eye as night enters and the day departs, and it is impossible to determine its length.

As the sun sinks and the colors of the day turn, we offer a blessing for the twilight, for twilight is neither day nor night, but in-between. We are all twilight people. We can never be fully labeled or defined. We are many identities and loves, many genders and none. We are in-between roles, at the intersection of histories, or between place and place. We are crisscrossed paths of memory and destination, streaks of light swirled together. We are neither day nor night. We are both, neither, and all.

May the sacred in-between of this evening suspend our certainties, soften our judgments, and widen our vision. May this in-between light illuminate our way to the God who transcends all categories and definitions. May the in-between people who have come to pray be lifted up into this twilight. We cannot always define; we can always say a blessing. Blessed are You, God of all, Who brings on the twilight.

ON LIGHTING A YAHRZEIT CANDLE

A yahrzeit (memorial) candle is customarily lit at sundown on the eve of the anniversary of the death of a loved one and at sundown four times a year: Erev Yom Kippur, the eighth night of Sukkot (Erev Shemini Atzeret), the second night of Shavuot, and the last night of Pesach. While there is no special prayer that must be recited while lighting a memorial candle, some people stop for a few moments to remember the deceased and to spend some time in introspection. Some people end their reflection with the following words:

Zei-cher l'tze-dek l'v-racha.

May the memory of the righteous be for a blessing.

PRACTICE

How simple it ought to be, to practice compassion on someone gone, even love him, long as he's not right there in front of me, for I turned to address him, as I do, and saw that no one's lived in that spot for quite some time. O turner-away of prayer – not much of a God, but he was ever meant to be. For the seventh time I light him a candle; an entire evening and morning it burns, not a light to see by, more a reminder of light, a remainder, in a glass with a prayer on the label and a bar code from the store. How can he go on? He can't. Then let him pass away, he gave what light he could. What more will I claim, what debt of grace he doesn't owe? If I forgive him, he is free to go.

זכר לצדק לברכה

ON LEAVING THE CEMETERY

Upon leaving the cemetery it is customary to tear out some blades of grass and toss them over one's right shoulder as one recites:

V'ya-tzi-tzu mei-ir k'ei-sev ha-a-retz.
Za-chur ki a-far a-nach-mu.

TEHILLIM 73:16, 103:14

ורצו מעיר כעשב הארץ.
זכור כי עפר אנחנו.
תהלים ע"ג י"ד ותלפ"דMay they blossom forth from the city like the grass of the earth.
Remember that we are but dust.

PSALMS 73:16, 103:14



Siddur Sha'ar Zahav is Here!

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emphasized the importance of worshipping with kavanah rather than following a set script. The many new readings in this siddur will give us more to choose from as we shape our prayers and davening. They also will provide members with a richer, more personal prayer experience if they choose to use the siddur at home.

The Work of Many Hands

Many, many hands have gone into the making of this siddur. Almost six dozen congregants helped make this siddur possible. Leslie Kane organized a group of ten "roshim," or head editors, each of whom edited a section and helped review other sections. These hard-working volunteers were Cantor Bernstein, Aaron Danzig, Joss Eldredge, Avi Goldberg, Leslie Kane, Marc Lipshutz, Jeff Piade, Andrew Ramer, Michael Tyler, and Randy Weiss.

Over forty members, past and present, contributed readings, many written in amazing group sessions conducted by Andrew Ramer. Ten members contributed works of art, shepherded by the talented Jeanette Nichols. Another eight members have worked as proofreaders, under the stewardship of Karen Schiller and Dana Vinicoff, while Martin Tannen-

baum has assembled a marketing committee whose work is ongoing.

Martin, Leslie, Michael, Jeanette, and Richard Meyerson constituted an oversight committee, while Dan Bellm, Sarita Groisser, Howard Steiermann and Andy Fyne served as the Editorial Review Committee.

Jo Ellen Green Kaiser coordinated and managed the work of all these different groups, from editorial to marketing, as our Project Manager. (Ed. Note: Michael Tyler, who has a tendency to be too self-effacing, has shepherded the whole process as Chair of the Siddur Committee, putting in extraordinary hours as a volunteer in this capacity.)

Of course, we received the advice and counsel of rabbis Camille Angel and Yoel Kahn, soon-to-be Rabbi Reuben Zellman, and Cantor Sharon Bernstein. The book's beautiful and highly-readable visual style is entirely the result of the talent, hard work, and extraordinary dedication of Cindy Steinberg.

Mark Your Calendars

We have chosen to distribute *Siddur Sha'ar Zahav* in galley form so that our congregation has an opportunity to re-

view its pages during the next several weeks before we go to press. We know there are still typos and misspellings that we want to catch. There may be missing words or lines; citations, references or attributions may be incorrect or missing; other technical items may have evaded us. Please tell us if you find such technical errors, so we can make corrections. Proofreaders, having already made one pass, will be making additional passes this month and the next to catch more.

Mark your calendars for two evenings in early July. At 6:30 pm on Wednesday, July 2 and also at 6:30 pm on Friday, July 11, we will be hosting open sessions to introduce the siddur, discuss its aims and organization, and give you an opportunity to help us with corrections before we finalize the bound volumes.

For legal reasons, copies of the galley proofs must remain at Mishkan Dolores, and you'll notice they are numbered to help us manage galley inventory. But please feel free to stop by the shul to thumb through them, and write your comments in the copy we've set up in the oneg room.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					29 TAMMUZ 6:00 pm Friday Night Live 8:15 pm Shabbat Serv	1 AV 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
2 AV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	3 AV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	4 AV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	5 AV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	6 AV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm SFOP meet	7 AV 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	8 AV 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service 8:00 pm Erev Tisha B'Av Service
9 AV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	10 AV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	11 AV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	12 AV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	13 AV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	14 AV 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	15 AV 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
16 AV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	17 AV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	18 AV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	19 AV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	20 AV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 6:45 pm Va'ad meeting	21 AV 6:00 pm Beit Sefer Open House dinner 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	22 AV 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
23 AV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	24 AV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	25 AV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	26 AV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	27 AV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 6:45 pm Ritual Committee	28 AV 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	29 AV 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
30 AV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service						

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in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Yasmine Shiloh.
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in memory of his mother, Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

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in memory of Lorraine Morris.

Lucy Bernholz in loving memory of her uncle, Marvin Sinkoff

James Carlson in honor of Ron Edelman's graduation.
in memory of Richard Inlander.

Henry Carrey in memory of his great grandfather, Dovid-Hersh Herman.

CSZ Mensch Group

Manny Fishman & Leslie Kane in honor of Ron Edelman's graduation.
in memory of Richard Inlander.

Avi Goldberg & Will Garcia in honor of Nancy Brunn and family.
in honor of the birth of Benjamin Eisemann-Whiting.

Alan Gordon & Steve Schumacher in memory of Sylvia Radovich.

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Tannenbaum in honor of the birth of Benjamin Jacob Whiting-Eisemann.
in memory of Karen Schiller's cat, Tribble.
in memory of Rita Losch's dog, Frankie.

Jewish Voice For Peace

Rose Katz in honor of Erika Katske's appointment to Executive Director of SFOP.
in honor of Karen Schiller's birthday.
in honor of Rabbi Elliot Kukla's joining

the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center.
in honor of Sara Haber's birthday.
in memory of Marvin J. Katz.

Ron Lezell in memory of Richard Inlander.

in memory of Sophie Lezell.

Mark Mackler in honor of Steve Mazer gaining a new job with the State Bar of California.

in honor of Ron Edelman's graduation from law school.

Jeanette Nichols in honor of Mike Klayman.

Nancy Pines in honor of the Pines-Schwartz Family.

Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz in honor of Sara Haber's 50th birthday.
in honor of Andrea Guerra's photographs being accepted at the New Jewish Museum.

in honor of Erika Katske's being named as Executive Director of SFOP.

in honor of Karen Schiller's 50th birthday.

in honor of Ron Edelman's graduation from law school.

in honor of the birth of Benjamin Jacob Whiting-Eisemann.

in honor of the births of Sabina and Jonathan Brunn.

in memory of Richard Inlander.

in memory of Tribble, Karen Schiller's beloved beastie.

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Friday Oneg & Saturday Kiddush Generously Sponsored by **Michael Shiloh & Melanie Miguel** In honor of their daughter, Yasmine, co-leading services.

11/12

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Jacqui Shine** In memory of the first yahrzeit of her mother, Suzanne Shine.

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and **Linda Eisemann** In honor of the Hebrew naming of her grandson, Benjamin Jacob Whiting-Eisemann.

25/26

Bimah Flowers Generously Co-Sponsored by **Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tanenbaum** In honor of Karen Schiller and Sara Haber's birthdays,
and **Bernard Schertzer** In memory of his mother, Gussie Kaplan Schertzer.

Friday Oneg & Saturday Kiddush Generously Co-Sponsored by **Sara Haber and Karen Schiller** In honor of their birthdays,
and **Rebecca Goldfader** In memory of her father, Sidney Goldfader.

May

02/03

Bimah Flowers, Oneg & Kiddush Generously Sponsored by **The Miguel / Shiloh Family** In honor of the Bat

Mitzvah of Yasmine Gabriella Shiloh.

09/10

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **The CSZ Israel Committee and Friends** In honor of Israel's 60th!

16/17

Bimah Flowers Generously Co-Sponsored by **Ann Bauman & Kelly Thiemann** In honor of their 16th wedding anniversary.
& **Lou Fischer** In memory of her mother, Iris Fischer.

Friday Oneg & Childcare Generously Sponsored by **Ann Bauman & Kelly Thiemann** In honor of their 16th wedding anniversary.

23/24

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Daniel Ostrow** In memory of his father, John Jacob Ostrow.

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Tony Harris** In memory of his father, Howard Harris, on the occasion of his 30th yahrzeit.

Welcoming Community

(continued from page 3)

when she leads us in song, many, many inspiring lay leaders, a dazzling educator and Beit Sefer staff who continue to amaze me, a truly dedicated administrator and staff—and members and volunteer leaders who continually accomplish remarkable things. We are not only publishing our siddur, but it's new and improved, beautiful and definitely original.

Over the next two years, I hope that we can provide opportunities for many current members and strangers to find and deepen their connections to our amazing community.

Shlach L'cha, the parsha for my installation service, admonishes the Israelites to treat the stranger as they would one another. This was written at a time when it was clear that the Israeli people would be moving into a land with existing inhabitants—where they would both be strange and strangers. But the Torah insists that we make all welcome as members of our community—not as outsiders.

In our community, there is a special challenge, as so many of us have grown up invested in NOT belonging and yet

yearning to belong. So we must find ways to balance these competing notions as we forge a welcoming community.

Our congregation supports many paths for connection: through communal worship and ritual, through multi-generational education, through caring for one another (Bikkur Cholim), through social action (our particular SFOP-brand of Tikkun Olam), through the Women's Chavurah or the Mensch Group, through sharing food, through volunteering, and through many ways not mentioned or not yet created. I used to think that everyone needed to join a committee to feel connected—and that certainly works. But there many paths.

During the next two years, I hope we can create new ways to celebrate all that is wonderful and "strange" about each of us, and to create deeper and more meaningful connections for this community of strangers.

Let us all participate in making Sha'ar Zahav a welcoming community, one which allows each of us to find connections which are meaningful to us—and in the process, welcome the stranger and feel welcomed ourselves.

Naches

Yishar Koach to **Rabbi Angel** and **Greg Lawrence** who co-authored a Tazria midrash on *jspot* regarding a holistic approach to social action.

Yishar Koach to **Patricia Lin** who chanted Torah for the first time (Leviticus 11:13-11:19) on March 29th at Congregation Beth El in Sudbury, Massachusetts as part of her surrogate little sister Anna's Bat Mitzvah.

Yishar Koach to **Erika Katske** who was recently promoted to the position of Executive Director at the San Francisco Organizing Project!

Yishar Koach to **Ina Turpen Fried** who posted a great cnet article on the Great Passover matzah shortage of 5768 here in the Bay Area.

Yishar Koach to CSZ extended family member **Rabbi Elliot Kukla**. Rabbi Kukla, who was CSZ's Summer Rabbi-in-Residence in 2007, just joined the staff of our very close friends, the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center. We look forward to many years of this continued partnership with Rabbi Kukla and the entirety of the BAJHC!

Yishar Koach to **Marty Rawlings-Fein** who will begin a Master of Arts in Jewish Studies in the fall with Hebrew College in Newton, Massachusetts. Not to fret friends! This is an online degree; Marty is staying put with us here in SF.

Yishar Koach to **Andrea Guerra**, whose artwork was featured in open studios at Art Explosion over the weekend of April 25. The Contemporary Jewish Museum has recently accepted a number of her photographs, of which the CSZ community is the predominant subject, for their exhibit, *"Being Jewish: A Bay Area Portrait."*

Yishar Koach to **Harry Bernholz**, son of Paula Fleisher and Lucy Bernholz, who earned a second place finish for English-speaking 1st graders in this year's Peninsula-Wide Mandarin Speech Contest. Harry wrote and recited a speech on his unique and interesting Australian Cattle Dog named Ru.

Yishar Koach to **Rabbi Camille Angel**, who eloquently shared her Re-

form Jewish perspective as she and other rabbis discussed the impact of the Israeli state and its politics on their respective rabbinates in *Zeek* magazine.

Yishar Koach to **Tova Green**, who was just began a social work position at Hospice by the Bay in their San Francisco office.

Yishar Koach to **Amy Scharf** who got a new job as Director of Educational Programs at GroundSpark (formerly Women's Educational Media), a social justice filmmaking and educational outreach organization in San Francisco.

Yishar Koach to **Bernard Schertzer** (co founder of Tenants Association Coalition of SF) who received an "Award of Recognition" from the State of California in recognition of his dedication to protecting the rights of tenants in the City of SF and his exemplary service to our community.

Yishar Koach to **Ron Edelman** who graduated from law school on Saturday, May 17!

Yishar Koach to **Vanessa Eisemann**, NCLR Attorney, who worked tirelessly to achieve success in the recent State Supreme Court decision that approved same-sex marriage. In addition, yishar koach to **Ora Prochovnick** and all the other CSZ members (and all the people everywhere) who worked to make this a reality!

Thank You

Thank you to all who attended CSZ's Purim Tenderloin Luncheon, where we served lunch to 42 seniors. Yishar Koach CSZ!

Life Cycles

Mazel Tov to **Yasmine Shiloh** on her becoming a Bat Mitzvah on May 3.

Mazel Tov to **Raul Garcia-Gonzalez**, and his partner **Enrique**, who were married on April 17 in Madrid.

Mazel Tov to **Cate Whiting** and **Vanessa Eisemann**, who were gifted with the birth of their son, **Benjamin Jacob Whiting-Eisemann**, on April 1. On April, 11 Benjamin Jacob was given the Hebrew name Binyamin Yaakov ben Sarah v'Hannah. Mazel Tov to the

entire Whiting-Eisemann family!

Mazel Tov to **Ilana Bernstein** and **Diane Desmond** on their newest family member. They returned in May from Ethiopia with their adopted daughter, **Chaltu Bernstein**, who just celebrated her 8th birthday on May 10. Chaltu joins the Bernstein Desmond family as the sister of Desmond, Anna, and Malik.

Mazel Tov to **Nancy Brunn** on the birth of her twins, **Sabina Lilly** and **Jonathan Elan** on Sunday May 11!

New Members

CSZ warmly welcomes the following new members to our community:

Lou Fischer, Melissa Foster, Chris Miller, Tamar Bland, Alex McGowen, Robin Bowen, Hilary Cohen, Peter Peterson, Aren Sandersen, and Liena Vayzman

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Officers and Va'ad Members

The voting members of the Va'ad are the six officers of the congregation and nine at-large Va'ad members. The immediate past president and the Rabbi both serve as ex-officio non-voting members of the Va'ad.

Officers

The following members the 2008-2009 officers of the congregation:

President

Alex Ingersoll

First Vice President

Karen Schiller

Second Vice President

Laura Lowe

Third Vice President

James Carlson

Treasurer

Merle Malakoff

Recorder

Avi Goldberg

Va'ad Members at Large

The following members are the 2008-2009 at large members of the Va'ad:

Aaron Danzig

Manny Fishman

Jo Ellen Green Kaiser

Susan Lubeck

Shelli Rawlings-Fein

Amy Scharf

Craig Shear

Michael Tyler

Abi Weissman

Committee Chairs

Most committee meetings are open and listed on the calendar (pages 8-9).

You are invited to attend any of these meetings—if you have questions, please contact the committee chairs.

Bikkur Cholim

Daniel Najjar

CEB

Kelly Cytron

Communications (was Marketing)

Jo Ellen Green Kaiser

Dues

Lisa Katz

Oneg

This could be you! (Help office get sponsorships for onegs, plan big onegs-perfect for a real party person!)

Programming

This could be you! (Work with ritual, CEB and staff to calendar our events and make sure they are staffed)

Ritual

Aaron Danzig and Randy Weiss

Volunteers

Sara Haber

Welcoming (was Membership)

Ellen Murland (interviews),

Marty Rawlings-Fein (events)

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Condolences

We announce with sadness the deaths of:

Nancy Kogan, cousin of Niki Rothman

Suzanne Fox, stepmother of Peter Allen

Samuel Rozdzial, father-in-law of Randy Weled

Aspasia Nea, friend of Terry Fletcher

Karen Rubens, cousin of Judith Wolfe

Dora Glass, aunt of Ami Zusman

Andrea Collier, friend of Jacqui Shine

Richard Inlander, beloved member of our congregation

Ethelene Spough, long-time dear friend of Marjorie Hilsenrad

Claire Goldman, mother-in-law of Jeanette Nichols and mother of former CSZ member Daryl Goldman

Member Yahrzeits

July

- 4 Edwin Gabay
- 5 Matthew Rostoker
- 6 David Custead
- 9 Alexander Louis Konski
- 10 Rachel Mailman
- 17 Steven P. Berman
- 25 Seth Miller
- 30 Phillip Resnick

August

- 2 David Kotch
- 4 Jordan Berger
- 4 Mavis Eldredge
- 5 Ernie Weinstein
- 6 Jay Platt
- 7 Mark Landsberger
- 16 Peter Rosenfeld
- 18 Elliot Schneck
- 23 Bill Schlichter
- 28 Jay Feinstein

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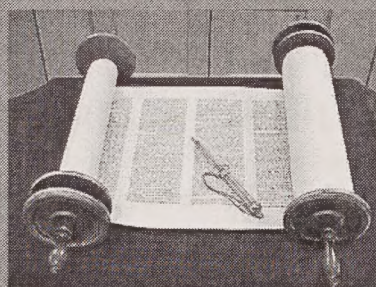
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